

SITUATION REPORT NO. 10
INCIDENT NO. 97-001
DATE: August 27, 1997 TIME: 1:00 pm

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flood - Devils Lake.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: The level of Devils Lake has dropped to 1442.78 feet MSL as of August 27, 1997. So far, the peak mean daily elevation for 1997 was 1442.97 feet MSL on July 26/27.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported that samples from St. Michael's sewage lagoon indicate an unacceptable level of chemical oxygen demand (oxygen needs of the lagoon) and fecal coliform. The lagoon does not discharge into Devils Lake. However, to ensure there are no discharges, the EPA has provided a \$225,000 grant to Indian Health Service for fortifying the lagoon's dikes and berms.

Camp Gilbert C. Grafton officials have decided to discontinue use of the camp's sewage lagoon by the end of the year. The camp will transfer to the Ramsey County Rural Utility System (RCRU). The estimated cost for closure of the lagoon and transfer of services is \$192,000. The lagoon cells are currently protected to approximately 1,446 feet MSL.

Camp Grafton will also be subscribing to RCRU for potable water by the end of the year. The camp currently draws water from the Warwick/Devils Lake main water line along N.D. Highway 20. The National Guard places the estimated cost to transfer to RCRU's water system at \$400,00.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: A State Flood Coordination Center meeting was held in Devils Lake, August 21, 1997. Following is a summary of information reported during that meeting.

N.D. Game and Fish Department

Gravel work has been completed on a new boat ramp at Six Mile Bay, which is currently in use. The Game and Fish Department has five boat ramps available on the lake.

N.D. Parks and Recreation Department

With the closure of Grahams Island State Park for the summer, the N.D. Parks and Recreation Department has seen visitations to Shelters Grove increase 147 percent.

N.D. National Guard

The National Guard plans to ship 65,000 pound of railroad ties to a company authorized to dispose of hazardous waste. These ties were removed from the camp's small arms range near N.D. Highway 20 and are highly contaminated with lead. This was done to assure that the lake would not be contaminated should the small arms range be inundated by lake water.

N.D. Highway Patrol

The Highway Patrol, with the assistance of area law enforcement agencies, is working with the N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) and construction companies in closing roads as necessary.

N.D. State Water Commission (SWC)

The total 1997 storage obtained through Available Storage Acreage Program (ASAP) is 22,000 acre feet (AF) on 167 sites, involving approximately 13,500 acres of land.

The SWC is providing surveying assistance to the City of Minnewaukan in identifying the elevations of critical facilities in the community for flood planning purposes.

N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT)

The contractor is working on the projects required to reopen N.D. Highway 20 across the Narrows. As of August 21, there was about 1,500 feet of roadway yet under water near the Junction of N.D. Highway 20 and N.D. Highway 57. Given current progress and continued dry weather, it may be possible to open N.D. Highway 20 at least for school buses and emergency vehicles by late August or early September.

Preliminary design work is proceeding on the N.D. Highway 57 Narrows Bridge. The environmental assessment is in final stages of completion and will be sent to FHWA for review yet this week. The bridge design must be completed by December, and the project bids taken in February.

The N.D. DOT has received approval from the Federal Highway Administration to designate the Woods-Rutten Road as a detour road. This authorization allows the N.D. DOT to regravell and reshape the road.

North Central Planning Council (NCPC)

The NCPC completed the final application for the City of Devils Lake for \$100,000 of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds to pay for appraisals, surveys of land, soil testing, legal fees, and option agreements on property to be used for the Stage Three Levee Raise.

The final application for \$323,000 of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds to repair the Ramsey County Rural Sewer System has been approved by the Office of Intergovernmental Assistance (OIA).

N.D. Department of Health

Staff from the Department of Health's Division of Water Quality continues to monitor water quality in the Devils Lake chain of lakes. The monitoring plan was modified with the addition of a new site located near the proposed Peterson Coulee outlet. The staff also monitors water quality from three sites in the Minnewaukan flats area, one at Six Mile Bay, two at Creel Bay, one at East Bay, another at Black Tiger Bay and one in east Devils Lake. A recent monitoring took place at all locations on August 4; results will be available in early September.

The Department of Health is evaluating the environmental impact of water conveyance methods that could be used if an outlet is created for Devils Lake. Those methods include pump storage, pipeline and open

channel systems. Results of the study will be provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for its outlet study.

Indian Health Service

Indian Health Service has issued work orders for individual wells/septic tanks and drainfield replacement work at Spirit Lake Nation. To date, 10 sites have been provided with wells, septic tanks and drainfields. The flood has impacted approximately six sites.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

A study of a possible realignment of the lake level protection system for the city of Devils Lake should be completed soon. Ramsey County officials had asked the USACE to consider a realignment to protect 200 Eagle Bend Estates homes, telephone, sewage and water systems, Ramsey County Road #1 and a golf course.

Emergency measures taken to protect the city of Devils Lake from flood waters until a permanent lake level protection system is in place have been completed. Those measures include plugging East Ditch and building an emergency levees on Stromme Road.

Redesign work continues on plans for the lake level protection system for the city of Devils Lake. Work that had been in progress on Stage One has been completed. Representatives of the USACE and the contractor are working on design changes to raise the levee's top elevation from 1,450 feet MSL as called for in the original plan to 1,457 feet. MSL.

The USACE is developing plans and specifications for repair work to inundated sewer lines owned by Ramsey County Rural Utility System. Rerouting of lift stations and systems are under evaluation. Once plans are completed, construction could begin with a targeted completion date of fall, 1997.

City of Devils Lake

The City of Devils Lake, with the help of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), has completed the temporary pumping station located on the east storm water ditch. This pumping station is utilizing two 24-inch Gator pumps that were allocated to the City from the State Water Commission. The pump station was designed for three pumps. The third pump will be installed in time for next spring's runoff.

The City is currently working on appraisals and land acquisition for all areas of the new dike and extensions of the current dikes. The City, County, and Water Board have been working with the USACE on a feasibility study, financing, and alignment for the west loop of the dike which includes Eagle Bend and parts of the golf course.

Ramsey County Emergency Management

The Ramsey County Emergency Manager is helping Mercy Hospital with an assessment of the hospital's resources if water or sewer services were interrupted.

The USACE and the U.S. Geological Survey have developed a base flood elevation of 1,445.3 feet MSL as the 100-year floodplain and 1,448.5 feet MSL as the 500-year floodplain. Wave action varies from 0.8 feet to 5.7 feet. Ramsey County has designated 1,450 feet MSL as the base flood elevation for construction.

A total of 140 Ramsey County homes have either been moved or are scheduled to be relocated from the Devils Lake floodplain.

Nelson County Emergency Management

The Nelson County Emergency Manager has met with the Nelson County Water Resource Board and with

the Mayor of the city of Michigan to discuss problems with the city and the potential flooding from Lake Laretta.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The next State Flood Coordination Center meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room on September 25, 1997.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports is posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez
State Director